

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 1978

America and strike freeze together

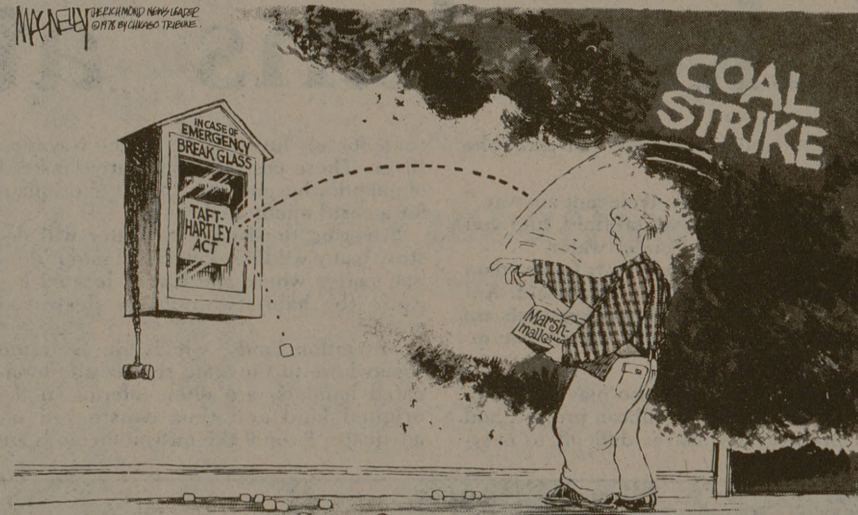
Brace yourself, America. You walked into the hospital like so many others before you with a minor cut on the head. A few stitches quickly administered would have done nicely. But while you waited with a blood-soaked cloth to the wound, the doctors debated among themselves whether stitches, Band-Aids or a kiss on the hurt would save the day. Now they turn back to check on you and see that the situation has far passed the stitches stage. You've lost a lot of blood and it's a battle for life, itself.

Mine workers and the industry sat down 78 days ago to settle a walkout involving some 160,000 mine workers. That's the American way. But the coal strike passed the point of merely being the subject of management stubbornness weeks ago. While negotiators have continued to battle out their personal grievances, an entire nation has been slowly crippled.

President Carter has refused to use Taft-Hartley Act strike-breaking powers to put mine workers back to work and heat back into American homes. Apparently worried about the many campaign promises he's broken in his term of office, Carter's afraid to commandeer this critical situation. Instead he continues to issue gutless threats to a stonewalled bargaining table.

Meanwhile, America sees its workers lay off, its lights dimmed and its breath inside the home in the dead of winter. America's lifeblood, it seems, is a tool of business and politics.

The time to act has passed. There's no way the country will escape the very harsh results of negotiators' stubbornness and Jimmy "I believe in free collective bargaining" Carter's political unwillingness. Even if the strike ends today, it will take about a month to put rank-and-file miners back to work and another month to get America back into coal operation. There is but a couple of months' coal supply left in the country. The ripple effects of strike-produced unemployment, high prices and nagging coal shortages will



continue to plague the country for some time.

Carter has gone to Congress to work out a strike solution. The Congress ponders, the negotiators fume and threaten violence, and the president takes a garden hose to a forest fire. Mines remain quiet. And America, wrapping up in another blanket, braces herself. J.A.

Carter finds Mideast mediation tough

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter is discovering that the role of mediator is difficult and frustrating, especially in the case of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

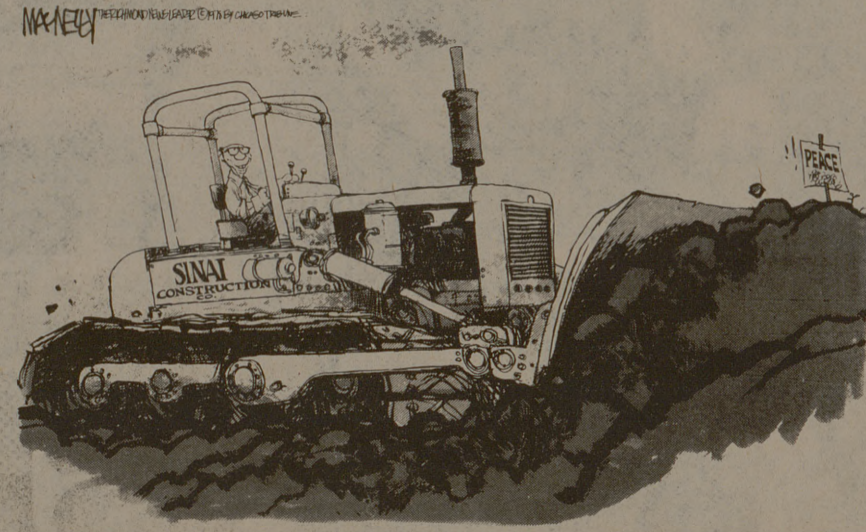
Washington Window

Since he came into office a year ago, Carter has made Mideast peace a major goal. And he seems to believe that despite the stops and starts the movement is forward.

In deciding to go to the mat with Israeli leaders over the establishment of settlements in occupied Arab territory, Carter has taken a calculated risk. The stiffening U.S. position has upset Israel and led to credibility challenges on both sides.

The president has reasserted a long-held position — that settlements in occupied territory are illegal under international law. The administration also contends that Carter had a commitment from Israeli leaders last fall that they would not found any new settlements during the year while the search for peace is under full sail.

Israeli leaders argue that the settlements are legal and that no such commitment was given to Carter. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has accused Carter of "taking sides" and both he and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan have



questioned the usefulness of the United States as a mediator.

The Arabs also have questioned Carter for his positions on a Palestinian homeland and his public rejection of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Carter is with us Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday," an Arab diplomat said. "But on the other days, he is with the Israelis."

The visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat can be viewed either way. Carter and Sadat undoubtedly understand each

other. But Sadat obviously did not get all that he had hoped for, and the administration did as much as it could to tone down his public relations effort with the American public.

Despite disillusionment on both sides, a White House aide asks, "Who else can mediate but the United States?" Nevertheless, in vying for his support, both the Arabs and Israelis are saying in effect, "If you are not with me, you are against me."

An interesting sidelight is the fact that when Sadat went to Israel to dramatize his

desire for a peaceful reconciliation of the 30-year conflict, the Egyptians, Israelis and all the pundits were saying that Carter had been sidelined, that Sadat's diplomatic leapfrog had wiped out the U.S. role.

But that soon turned out to be a premature judgment, and both sides urged the United States to take an active role when it appeared that they could only go so far alone. Carter's decision to send a representative to the political talks strengthened the hand of both Sadat and Begin to negotiate.

In an interview with a group of visiting editors last week, Carter revealed some of his own personal feelings about the role of a mediator.

"We have benefited greatly as a nation in seeing some progress made in the Middle East, particularly with the new direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel," Carter said.

"It is very discouraging and frustrating thing to be the intermediary or the messenger boy between a group of leaders in the Middle East who won't even speak to each other," he added.

"And when you carry a message from one to the other, the one who receives it doesn't like it and it blames the adverse message partially on the messenger.

"Then when the reply gets back, there is always an allegation that the United States didn't do its best to get a favorable answer," Carter said.

"So, it has been a very constructive thing just to get negotiations begun."

The last whizz, shudder, bang

By DICK WEST
United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Pasta V-4 that I've been driving to and from repair shops these past seven years failed to respond the other morning when I went out to the carport to give it its daily jump-start.

The Lighter Side

Stiffing panic, I grabbed my copy of "What To Do Until the Tow Truck Arrives." Remain calm, it advised. Lift the hood to allow freer circulation and try to make it more comfortable by letting some of the air out of the tires.

I followed the tow truck to the garage in a borrowed car. By the time I got there the

service manager was already filling out a coroner's report.

"Dead on arrival," he wrote. Some time later I got the post-mortem.

"You'll be relieved to know it was nothing serious," the service manager said. "The cause of death was a minor condition known as herniated glove compartment."

"What happens is that internal pressure, usually caused by excess of road maps, ruptures the walls of the glove compartment, releasing Kleenex tissues into the fresh air vent."

I said, "If that's a minor condition, how come the car was pronounced beyond repair."

"That's the way it is with some of these little foreign cars," he explained. "Once the glove compartment goes, they're finished."

I decided to take advantage of the pre-Washington Birthday sales to shop around for a replacement.

In seven years I had forgotten how warm and friendly and solicitous of your welfare used car salesmen are.

"Hi," he greeted me.

"Honest Sid Lemonpusher at your service. Don't tell me; let me guess. You're looking for an inexpensive luxury model that gets good gas mileage without sacrificing roominess and roadability, right?"

"How could you tell?" I exclaimed, deeply impressed by his precience.

"I can see it in your eyes," he replied.

He led me onto the lot. "This here is your basic one-owner trade-in. It was driven less than a year by a retired missionary who only used it to attend

weekly vespers. Any questions before we crank it up?"

"Yeah, I notice it's got a door in the rear. Is that what you call a hatchback?"

"Sort of. Technically, it's known as a rumble seat."

"And these things along the sides?"

"They're called running boards. They make it easier to get in and out."

Although, according to Honest Sid, the car had appreciated in value in the time it had been on the lot, he generously agreed to let me have it for the original sticker price.

"The sticker is stuck on there so tight I can't get it off to change the figures," he said.

Once I got the car home I could appreciate that adhesion. For when I finally soaked the sticker loose, the door fell off.

Letters to the editor

Park near polo grounds for change of scenery

Editor:
There has been an idea discussed lately that I feel may be of interest to other students, staff, and faculty. This idea has to do with the recreational areas in the north-east corner of the campus. This area is used presently for polo, soccer, softball and hitting golf balls. Obviously, this is a frequented area of recreation.

What I would like to see is this area developed into a recreation and park area. I do not mean take away any playing area what so ever, but in the areas surrounding these playing fields furnish more trees and-or shrubs and benches. I believe that this would not only increase the beauty of the area but would also function as a place of outdoor leisure for Aggies.

— Carl Nielson, '79

down the integrity of a fellow student through your own ignorance just goes to show how little class you have.

I would consider, if I were you, being a little more considerate of my fellow students. After all, we are inherently given freedom of expression, and for you to laugh at someone who provides their hard-worked thoughts for the consideration of the whole student body, is for you to laugh at the constitution of the United States.

Maybe if I could shed a little light for you, it might be easier. John Stuart Mill once declared; "Though the silenced opinion be an error, it may, and very commonly does, contain a portion of the truth; and since the general or prevailing opinion on any subject is rarely or never the whole truth, it is only by the collision of adverse opinions that the remainder of the truth has any chance of being supplied."

— George R. Gagnon, '80

not Bach. However, it may be that our "reputation" for being "independent" has a tendency to cause people like ELP to shy away from us, but I surely hope not.

— Paul Schreiber, '79

Thanks for drive
Editor:
In regards to Ray Daniel's letter, I

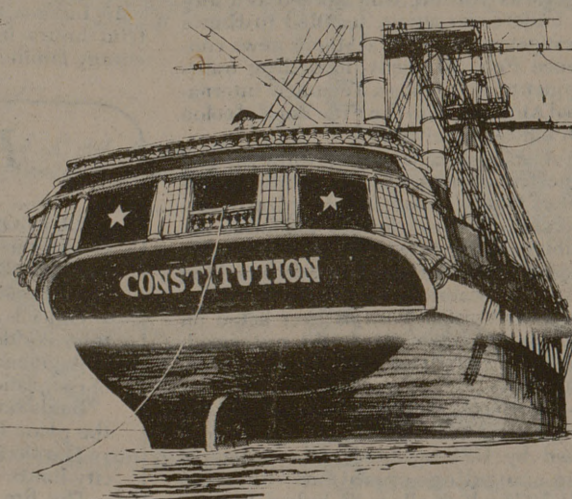
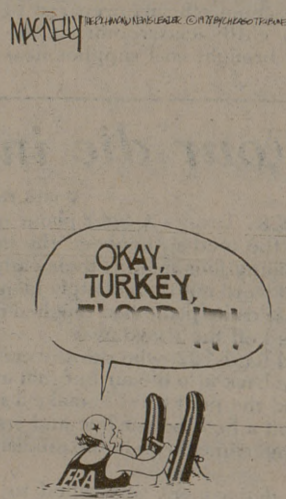
would just like to publicly thank him for having me drive 150 miles to another school to see Emerson, Lake and Palmer. Even though the crowd was estimated at 3,000, they were able to sign the act without fear of spending too much money. Also, sorry we couldn't take you along Ray, but a lot of others wanted to go along too and there wasn't any room.

— Stacy Holt, '79

No-hand city

Editor:
Re: Glenda Schultz's letter on Emerson, Lake and Palmer...

Having seen many concerts at A&M, I don't blame performers one bit for not wanting to play here. After all, who wants to have their \$50,000 Yamaha synthesizer made into a target for Frisbee practice? And G. Rollie was designed for basketball,



TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Spring Awards deadline set

The Spring Awards Scholarships deadline is March 1. Application forms for spring awards may be obtained from the Student Financial Office, YMCA Building, room 310. Applications will not be accepted after 5 p.m. on the deadline date, said R. M. Logan, director secretary, scholarship committee.

Microtext check-out changes

The Microtext Department of the University Library has announced a new circulation policy for microfiche readers. Undergraduate students may check out microfiche for two weeks while graduate students and faculty can check them out for one month. The portable microfiche readers can be checked out for one week. Graduate students and faculty may renew these materials by telephone, unless a hold has been placed on them by another library patron.

STATE

Eleven die in two blazes

Two multi-fatality blazes over the weekend in Houston and Keene, Texas, killed 11, authorities said Monday. A pet goat apparently kicked over a back porch electric heater which started a house fire in Houston, where a mother and four of her children were killed. The family kept three baby goats on their back porch and the heater to keep them warm, said Shirley Johnson of the Harris County fire marshal's office. Cause of the second fire, which killed three adults and three children in Keene, has yet to be determined.

Burned victim lifted to U.S.

A 3-year-old girl from the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific who was seriously burned while playing with matches was successfully airlifted from Honolulu to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio Monday for treatment. The girl, Nani Nagel, was in critical condition with second and third degree burns on 40 percent of her body. Doctors placed Nani's chances of survival at "50-50."

NATION

Florida holds sex slayer suspect

Florida authorities may try Theodore Bundy for car theft and burglary before surrendering him to other states for questioning about the sex slayings of 36 young women since 1969. The strategy, said one source, is to keep Bundy in the state in hopes of eventually finding enough evidence to charge him with the Jan. 15 murders of two Florida State University students. Final decision on the matter would be up to Governor Reubin Askew, should Colorado or three other states seeking Bundy demand extradition.

Carter seeks coal strike advice

In Washington Monday, President Carter set aside collective bargaining for the moment and sought the advice of key congressmen on how to end the record 78-day strike by 160,000 coal miners. At the same time, one independent coal company reached a tentative settlement of its contract with the United Mine Workers, apparently the first crack in the record walkout. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall and Carter told lawmakers what administration officials indicated were three options they could take: There could be orders for the miners to work under the Taft-Hartley Act, which UMW President Arnold Miller warned would provoke bloodshed at the mines. They could begin submitting the soft coal industry and UMW to binding arbitration, or there could be a federal takeover of the mines, during which the government would set "fair" wage and profit levels while the bargaining continues. Congress would have to approve either of the last two options.

Egyptian commandoes home

An Egyptian airplane flew home from Nicosia, Cyprus Monday with some of the Egyptian commandoes killed and wounded in an Entebbe-like hostage rescue raid that turned into a bloody airport battle with Cypriot troops. Cypriot Defense Minister Christodoulos Veniamin put the Egyptian casualty toll at 15 dead and two missing, 16 injured and 41 captured. Cause of such actions began with the weekend terror on Saturday by two Palestinian gunmen who assassinated one of President Anwar Sadat's closest friends. The Palestinians then commanded a Cyprus DC-8 jetliner with 80 hostages. The later freed all but 16. Cypriot officials blamed the 50-minute rocket, machine gun and mortar battle on the 75 or more Egyptians and said they tried to stage the raid in violation of Cypriot sovereignty just as the Palestinians were about to surrender to the Cypriots. Cyprus has agreed to let those who were captured or surrendered, go home as soon as they get transportation. The Egyptian version said, they commandoes carried out the mission skillfully and bravely. As a result the two terrorists surrendered and all hostages were released safely.

WEATHER

Clear & cold today and tonight. Fair and warmer on Wednesday. High today low 50s. Low tonight mid 20s. High tomorrow upper 50s. Winds from the north at 15-20 mph. Chill factor this morning 5 degrees above 0.

THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer, and list a telephone number for verification.

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